

PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE
P. O. Box 501
Chowchilla, CA. 93610

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Office of Proceedings
January 22, 2014
Part of
Public Record

January 17, 2014

The Honorable Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W., Room 100
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: California High Speed Rail Authority Petition for Exemption of Fresno to Bakersfield HST Section (Finance Docket No. 35724 (Sub-No. 1), and Any Action Pertaining to the 'Wye' Portion of the Merced to Fresno Section

Dear Ms. Brown,

On September 26, 2013 the California High Speed Rail Authority (Authority) petitioned the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for an exemption to construct a section of the California High Speed Rail Project (HSR Project) from Fresno to Bakersfield. The STB determined on December 4, 2013 to deny the exemption and extend the comment period for the public to December 24, 2013, and then extended it to February 14, 2013. During this period the public is granted the ability to provide comments and concerns to the STB concerning ANY EXEMPTION request that the Authority has requested or may request in the FUTURE.

On December 20 2013, the STB requested interested parties to establish their intent to participate in the above subject proceeding. Please accept this letter as a notice of our intent to participate in the above referenced proceeding, or any action pertaining to the 'Wye' portion of the Merced to Fresno Section.

Preserve Our Heritage represents folks in the 'Wye' portion of the Merced to Fresno Section of the project. This portion was excised out of the approval by the STB for the Merced to Fresno Section. The EIR, CEQA, NEPA and other clearances for the 'Wye' are in the process of consultation and outreach.

Having previously participated in the STB process, the purpose of this letter is to notify you of our desire to maintain our 'standing' in the STB process. Even though a portion of the Merced to Fresno Section was approved by the STB, it did NOT provide the Rail Authority a 'free pass' to proceed in the 'Wye' portion of the Merced to Fresno section without further review by the STB or the other normal processes in place to protect citizens rights and concerns relating to projects that affect them. Please notify us when such review is sought by the Authority so we may participate.

Sincerely,



Kole Upton, Vice-President,
Preserve Our Heritage
P.O. Box 501
Chowchilla, CA. 93610

JAN 22 2014